- Coverage of all food crops (cereals, millets and pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops in respect of which past yield data is available for adequate number of years.
- Amount the annual commercial/horticultural crops, eleven crops namely cotton, sugarcane, potato, chillies, ginger, onion, turmeric, jute, tapioca, annual banana and pineapple are presently covered.
- Basically all-risk insurance scheme covering all yield losses due to non-preventable natural risks.
- Premium rates are 3.5% for bajra and oilseeds, and 2.5% for other Kharif crops, 1.5% for wheat, and 2% for other rabi crops.
- In case of annual commercial/horticultural crops, actuarial rates of premium are charged.
- Small and marginal farmers are provided 50% subsidy on the premium charged from them. The subsidy is to be phased out over a period of 5 years on sunset basis.
- Financial liabilities are shared between the Central Government and the State/UTs. on 50:50 basis.

Supply of Spurious Bt. cotton seeds

846. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a Multinational Private Company Mahyco had been supplying inferior quality of Bt. Cotton seeds in Andhra Pradesh leading to total crop loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof with regards to Andhra Pradesh and all other States where such inferior quality of Bt. cotton seeds are supplied by Mahyco and other Multinational companies;

(c) the details of action taken so far, against these companies supplying Bt. Cotton seeds in India; and

(d) the details of action taken so far, for compensating such loss of the farmers of Andhra Pradesh and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) M/s. Mahyco Seeds Ltd. has supplied Bt. Cotton hybrid seeds in Andhra Pradesh. Certain incidences are reported where the MECH-12 Bt. and MECH-184 Bt. have not performed well in six districts of Andhra Pradesh resulting in substantial crop loss.

(b) M/s. Mahyco Seeds Limited have supplied 93374 packets of 450 gms. of MECH-12 Bt., 6420 packets of MECH-184 Bt. and 1015 packets of MECH-162 Bt., covering an area of 40324 hectares, during Kharif, 2004 in cotton growing districts of Andhra Pradesh. Complaints are received regarding poor performance of MECH-12 Bt. and MECH-184 Bt. from the districts of Warangal, Khamman, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar, Krishna and Guntur. However, there are ho reports of supply of inferior quality of Bt. cotton seeds from other cotton growing States.

(c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have constituted team for assessing the crop loss.

(d) No action has been taken so far.

Shortage of fodder for milch cattle

†847. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of green and dry fodder for milch cattle available in the country;

(b) if so, the average annual production of green and dry fodder in the country;

(c) the number of milch cattle for which this fodder production is sufficient in view of requirements for a healthy cattle;

(d) whether it is a fact that this quantity of fodder is insufficient owing to the excessive number of milch cattle in the country; and

(e) if so, the additional quantity of fodder required in the country and what is the expected number of milch cattle in the country?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.